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Labour question

[Westminster]

[1905?]

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A FEW PRESS OPINIONS.

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A contribution to campaign literature on the Unionist side which should prove **of great service to all Unionist politicians.**

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All who value the integrity of that vast Empire will appreciate the "Gleanings" for the variety and point of their contents, and the keenness and vigour with which they advocate the great cause of national union and individual freedom.

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The work of making these "Gleanings" has been thoroughly done. Every political event of any importance which has occurred in the period chosen by the compilers is carefully recorded, and the most useful parts of the speeches made on both sides are quoted at length. It will be seen that this is **an indispensable book for the leading article writer and the politician.** Both will be saved a great deal of trouble by having under their hand a work of reference which will give them so much useful information in an accessible form.

Sheffield Daily Telegraph.

A perfect magazine of information on all public questions which have to be dealt with in Parliament as well as the extra-Parliamentary utterances of prominent men, with newspaper and magazine comment thereon.

N.U.—No. 558.

ENGLISH WORKING CLASS LEGISLATION.

List of Measures passed solely or mainly in the Interests of the Working Classes from 1874 to 1905.

CONSERVATIVE LEGISLATION.

1.—**Factories (Women and Children) Act,** 1875, limiting the hours of employment, and providing for education.

2—3. **Building Societies' Acts,** 1874–77, to place these Associations on a sounder basis.

4.—**Hosiery Manufacture Act,** 1874, for abolishing the truck system in this trade.

5—7.—**Friendly Societies' Acts,** 1875–76–87, providing increased security against fraud.

8.—**Employers and Workmen Act,** 1875, abolishing imprisonment for breach of contract, and substituting civil remedy.

9.—**Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act,** 1875, to extend and guarantee workmen's rights of combination.

10—11.—**Sale of Food and Drugs Act,** 1875 and 1899, to punish adulteration and the importation of adulterated food and to promote the sale of pure food and drugs.

12—13.—**Artisans' Dwellings Acts,** 1875–79, to enable public bodies to build proper houses for the working classes.

14.—**Public Health Act,** 1875, for enforcing cleanliness and preventing disease.

15.—**Unseaworthy Ships Act,** 1876, to prevent overloading and protect the lives of seamen.

16.—**Commons Act,** 1876, for preventing illegal enclosures and promoting public recreation.

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LIBERAL LEGISLATION.

1.—**Employers' Liability Act,** 1880, to give compensation for injuries to workmen.

2.—**Education Act,** 1880, to enforce school attendance.

3.—**Alkali Works Regulation Act,** 1881, to regulate alkali and other works causing dangerous or offensive gases.

4.—**Boiler Explosions Act,** 1882, to provide for enquiry in cases of accidents.

5.—**Artisans' Dwellings Act,** 1882, to carry out the recommendations of a Commission of which Lord Cross was Chairman.

6.—**Allotments Act,** 1882, to authorise the letting of County lands in allotments.

7.—**Bankruptcy Act,** 1883, providing against committal of gaols for small debts.

8.—**Factories and Workshops Act,** 1883 (applicable only to lead works and bakehouses).

9.—**Sea Fisheries (Apprentices) Act,** 1883, to regulate the employment of fishing lads.

10.—**Railway Passengers' Duty Act,** 1889, extending the facilities for cheap locomotion for workmen, originally obtained by Conservative action.

11.—**Building Societies Amendment Act,** 1884, to settle a disputed point of law.

12.—**Truck Act,** 1887, to prevent certain evasions of the previously existing law.

13.—**Law of Distress Act,** 1888, to exempt from seizure household goods up to £5 in value.

UNIONIST LEGISLATION.

89.—**Poor Law Act,** 1899, for the protection of poor children deserted or with incapable parents.

90.—**Seats for Shop Assistants Act,** 1899, to compel provision of seats for female shop assistants.

91.—**Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act,** 1899, for the provision of Special Education for such children.

92.—**Anchors and Chain Cables Act,** 1899, for the testing of all anchors and chains on British ships.

93.—**Small Dwellings Acquisition Act,** 1899, to empower local authorities to lend money to enable artizans, clerks and others to become the owners of the houses they inhabit.

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97.—**Shop Club Act,** 1902, to prohibit compulsory membership of unregistered shop clubs or thrift funds, and regulate such as are duly registered.

98.—**Police Reservists Act,** 1902, to enable police constables to count their service in the Transvaal war in the reckoning for their pensions.

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105.—**Out-door Relief (Friendly Societies) Act,** 1904, to provide that no sum less than five shillings weekly received by a person as sick pay from a friendly society shall be taken into account in granting him out-door relief.

106.—**Hall-marking of Foreign Plate Act,** 1904, to safeguard British trade by making foreign plate easily distinguishable from British.

107.—**Unemployed Workmen Act,** 1905, to provide means for dealing with the unemployed.

108.—**Aliens Act,** 1905, to provide for the keeping out and sending back of undesirable foreigners from the United Kingdom.

AND MANY OTHER ACTS BENEFITING THE WORKING-MAN INCIDENTALLY.

Working Men are invited to compare the above lists, which are fair and accurate records of the legislation affecting their interests during the last 31 years, and to judge between the two parties, as to

Which can show the best record of honest endeavours to better the conditions of the labouring classes;

Which offers the best security that its policy in the future will be directed to the same ends; and

Which party has been the real friend of the working classes, and best deserves their support at an Election.

Vote for the Conservative and Unionist Candidate.

Published by the Conservative Publication Department, St. Stephen's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., in connection with the National Union and the Conservative Central Office. (1205.)
Printed by Waterlow & Sons Limited, London Wall, London; and 49, Parliament Street, Westminster, S.W.

(C.C.O.—No. 518.)

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.

What it does and does not do.

The official title of the Unemployed Workmen Act, passed by the Unionists in 1905, is:—

"An Act to establish organisation with a view to the provision of employment or assistance for unemployed workmen in proper cases."

It is necessary to bear this title well in mind. Because it shows what the Act does and does not do.

London Organisation.

In the first place it sets up in every Metropolitan Borough a Distress Committee. This Committee is to be made up of:—

(i.) Borough councillors.
(ii.) Poor law guardians.
(iii.) "Persons experienced in the relief of distress."

Over all these Borough Distress Committees there will be a Central Body for the whole of the County of London.

The members of the Central Committee will consist of:—

(i.) Members of Distress Committees.
(ii.) Members of London County Council.
(iii.) Co-opted members.
(iv.) If so provided, members nominated by the Local Government Board.

The number of co-opted members and nominated members is limited, and at least one member of the Committee must be a woman.

Duties of Distress Committees.

The first duty of these Local Distress Committees is to make themselves acquainted with the labour conditions in their various districts.

When the Central Body want them to, they will have to receive and enquire into applications from unemployed. By a wise provision, applications cannot be considered unless applicants have resided in London for at least 12 months before.

In dealing with genuine cases of men out of work through no fault of their own, the Distress Committee may try to find work for them, or they may refer the cases to the Central Body.

The Distress Committee are **not** allowed to provide or make a money grant towards giving work to the unemployed.

Duties of the Central Body.

The Central Body superintends and guides the work of the Distress Committees. It is to set up or take over labour exchanges and employment registers and to get together information as to where work can be had.

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The Central Body may, if it likes, help any unemployed to emigrate, or move to another part of the country. It may provide or give help to providing temporary work.

How Cost is met.

Its expenses are to be met by voluntary contributions or by the rates. The rate-aid is limited to ½*d.* in the £, or when the Local Government Board consent to not more than 1*d.* rate.

The expenses which may be paid out of the rates are:—

(i.) Establishment charges.
(ii.) Money spent on emigration.
(iii.) Cost of buying land.

Money spent on paying wages on farm colonies **cannot** be paid out of the rates.

Country Bodies.

So far, London alone has been dealt with. In the county boroughs and urban districts, where there is a population of not less than 50,000, the Local Government Board shall order to be set up a Distress Committee, with powers like the Distress Committees and Central Body have in London.

In boroughs and urban districts, with populations between 10,000 and 50,000, similar bodies may be set up if the local council ask for such action.

In any county, or part of a county, the bodies to deal with the unemployed may be set up by the Local Government Board, whether the local council make application or not. When the district dealt with by the unemployed bodies does not cover the entire area of a county or county borough, the work usually done by the Central Body is to be done by a special committee of the local council.

Other Provisions.

Nobody who gets help under this Act will lose his vote. The City of London will be treated as a Metropolitan borough. Local authorities near London may, if they want to, be also counted as Metropolitan boroughs.

The Act applies to Scotland and Ireland; and will be in force for three years. In the meantime the new Poor Law Commission appointed by Mr. Balfour will be making a complete and thorough enquiry into the whole system of poor law relief and the unemployed question.

VOTE FOR THE UNIONISTS,

Who, by legislation and enquiry, have tackled the Unemployed Question.

Published by the Conservative Publication Department, St. Stephen's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., in connection with the Conservative Central Office and the National Union. (L. 5.)

Printed by VACHER & SONS, Westminster House, Great Smith Street, Westminster, S.W.

(C.C.O.—No. 517.)

THE TRUCK SYSTEM.

Evils the Conservatives and Unionists have done away with.

You ask to-day what the Truck System meant years ago?

It meant that a master paid his workmen not in money but in goods. Often he kept the store where they were to be got. They could only be had at very high prices, and often the master made the men take goods they did not want.

WAISTCOATS AS WAGES.

Here is a picture of the evils that had grown up in the towns and villages around the mines and factories.

"The question is what *is* wages? I say, 'tayn't sugar, 'tayn't tea, 'tayn't bacon. I don't think 'tis candles; but of this I be sure, 'tayn't waistcoats. . . . You know as how Juggins applied for his balance, and . . . Diggs has made him take two waistcoats. Now the question rises, what is a collier to do with waistcoats? Pawn 'em I s'pose to Diggs' son-in-law, next door to his father's shop, and sell the ticket for sixpence."—*Sybil*, Bk. iii. Ch. i.

THE CONSERVATIVE EFFORT.

No one who has studied the facts will assert that this is an over-drawn picture. Lord Beaconsfield knew what he was writing about.

The Conservatives in 1830, and again early in 1831, tried to get these evils remedied. Sir Robert Peel supported the measures.

"He was favourable to the payment of wages in money, because it encouraged feelings of sobriety and independence. He wished the poor man to have an opportunity of laying by a little money for old age, as a portion for a daughter, or a provision for his widow. This could not be done where the Truck System prevailed, and the men were paid, not in money, but with bad butter, or bad cheese, which they were obliged to sell at a ruinous loss."—*Parl. Deb.*, 14th December, 1830.

AND RADICAL OPPOSITION.

And what did the Radicals do to show their "friendship" for the working men.

Many of them opposed the Bills.

Mr. Joseph Hume, a leading Radical, said that it was a Bill which:—

"Was founded upon ignorance, which could do nothing but mischief, and which originated only in selfishness."—*Parl. Deb.*, 12th September, 1831.

Another Radical member said the Bill was "most pernicious." A third declared that:—

"Of all the absurd pieces of legislation that has ever been introduced into the British legislature, this was, in his opinion, the most absurd."—*Parl. Deb*, 12th April, 1831.

SUCCESS.

Later in the year Lord Wharncliffe introduced two Bills which ultimately became law.

The first Act repealed all the existing laws relating to truck. The second provided that wages should be actually paid **"in the current coin of the realm."**

No goods were to be supplied as wages.

These provisions applied to mines and quarries, the iron and steel trades, cotton and woollen mills, the earthenware and cutlery trades and many others.

BELATED ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Later the Radicals acknowledged that the Acts were good and useful. Mr. Mundella, in 1870, said:—

"When they remembered that it was only in 1831 that the Truck Acts were first passed, and saw **all the good** which they had done, he was quite sure he would not call in vain on the House to extend and perfect **their beneficent action.**"—*Hansard*, 12th July, 1870.

Yet when those early Acts were passing through the Commons a Radical could be found to describe them as

"A monstrous innovation."

HOSIERY ACT.

The Hosiery manufacturers it was found were letting out frames and machinery, and stopping part of the wages of the workpeople for the rent of the machines.

Complaints were rife about this practice, and in 1874 the Conservative Government of the day determined to put an end to the practice.

Such action was made illegal, and it was laid down that:—

"The full and entire amount of all wages should be paid in coin, without any deduction or stoppage of any description whatever, save and except for bad and disputed workmanship."—37 and 38 Vict. c. 48.

REVISION AND EXTENSION.

Under the Unionist Government of 1887 the Truck Acts were revised and extended.

They were made applicable to every workman. An exception was made in the case of agricultural labourers who often find it more convenient to get part of their wages in kind.

When wages are paid in advance, interest cannot be deducted; when goods are supplied by an employer, the value cannot be set off against a claim for wages; workmen cannot be made to buy at a particular shop.

THE QUESTION OF FINES.

In 1896, the Unionists again passed a measure for the benefit of the workers.

Fines have to be stuck up where workmen can see them or the contract must be signed by the workmen. In each case, all details as to the amount of the fine must be given.

The fine must be for some act likely to cause loss to the employers or hindrance to the workers. It must also be reasonable in amount.

SOME RADICAL MISREPRESENTATION.

The Radicals set out to misrepresent the Act, stating that it made fines and deductions legal which were illegal before. One or two bye-elections were influenced by this fraud, but fortunately Radical opinion of the better sort put an end to it.

RADICAL ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

For instance, Reynold's newspaper said :—

"We shall be no parties, therefore, to discrediting the Government on a false issue We have explained how far the Act goes, and we say distinctly that it is an improvement, on previous Acts."—February 21st, 1897.

Sir Charles Dilke also bore witness to the good done by the Act :—

"Although the Truck Act of last session did not satisfy trade unions, it had already done much good, especially to shop assistants, many large firms had announced their intention to abolish altogether fines and deductions from wages."—*Hanley*, November 18th, 1896.

Mr. A. Stewart, Secretary of the Notts Miners' Association, said :—

"If it had been any other Government in power the measure would have been lauded up to the skies. He considered it to be of great benefit to the working classes. He was not a Conservative himself, but as a class he was prepared to accept such measures as these."—*Hucknall*, April 1st, 1897.

SUPPORT THE UNIONISTS.

The Unionist Party have worked hard to get proper treatment for the workmen—at first, be it remembered, in the face of bitter Radical opposition.

By their actions the Unionists have shown themselves to be your friends.

Give them your support that they may work for you in the future.

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(C.C.O.—No. 516.)

Conservative and Unionist Work

FOR

FACTORY WORKERS.

SINCE 1802 about forty Acts have been passed dealing with the condition of the workers in factories and workshops.

Two-thirds of these have been the work of the Conservative and Unionist party. The earlier ones were carried in the face of bitter opposition from economists and Radical manufacturers like Mr. Cobden.

Driven to Suicide.

Here is a description of factory life before the Conservatives took reform in hand :—

> "There is abundant evidence on record to show that cruelties the most heartrending were practised upon the unoffending and friendless creatures who were thus consigned to the charge of master manufacturers; that they were harassed to the brink of death by excess of labour; that they were flogged, fettered and tortured . . . . that they were, in many cases, starved to the bone while flogged to their work, and that even in some instances they were driven to commit suicide to evade the cruelties of a world in which, though born to it so recently, their happiest moments had been passed in the garb and coercion of a workhouse."—*Fielden, Curse of the Factory System*, p. 10.

Early Legislation.

In 1802 and 1819 the Conservative Government passed Acts limiting the hours of child-labour, and making night-work illegal.

Lord Ashley, afterwards Lord Shaftesbury, in 1833, was able to pass a Bill, in spite of bitter Radical opposition, which dealt further with child-labour.

Miserable Legislation.

A Conservative Bill in 1843, to limit the working hours and to establish a national system of education, was so bitterly opposed by the Nonconformists that it had to be dropped. Next year the Government passed a Bill which set up the half-time system, and limited the hours of young people to twelve hours a day.

Mr. John Bright called it:—

"Miserable legislation on principles false and mischievous."—*Hansard*, vol. 74, p. 1070.

Ten-Hours Bill.

The Ten-Hours Bill was brought in in 1846, and was fiercely opposed by Mr. Bright and Mr. Cobden. Introduced again next year, it was as bitterly attacked. Mr. Bright called it:—

"One of the worst measures ever passed."—*Hansard*, vol. 75, p. 85.

The proposals found warm supporters among the Conservatives. Some factory owners tried to evade the Act, and the Conservatives had to pass a further measure.

In 1853 the women and children working in factories came under the Ten-Hours Act.

Extending the Benefits.

Mr. Disraeli, in 1867, gave 1,500,000 women and children the benefits of the Factory Acts. Blast furnaces, copper mills, and iron foundries, machinery works, paper, glass, tobacco, printing and bookbinding works, and all other works employing more than fifty hands, were all brought under the Acts.

In the same year the Conservatives turned their attention to workshops. They regulated the hours of labour of women and children in those buildings.

More Conservative Work.

Between 1868 and 1874 the Radicals were in power. Only two small measures mark this period.

When the Conservatives came back they at once set to work to improve the life of the workers.

In 1874 they reduced the hours of labour and made provision for proper meal times for women and young persons. Children under ten could not be employed; over that age they must have reached a certain standard of education.

Of this Act a Radical, Mr. Mundella, said it was "a noble measure." It was, he said:—

"To the immortal honour of the Conservative party that they had passed the Factory Acts."—*Hansard*, vol. 219, p. 1463.

An Act was also passed to put an end to the Truck System in the hosiery trades.

The Workmen's Charter.

No two Acts have been a greater boon to the workers than the Employers and Workmen Act, and the Conspiracy Act, both passed by the Conservatives in 1875.

The first made employers and workmen equal before the law as regards labour contracts; by the second a number of persons could combine without crime, if the act were legal if done by one person.

Mr. George Howell, the labour leader, called these measures:—

"A great boon to the industrial classes—as in fact the charter of their social and industrial freedom."—*Handy Book of Labour Laws.*

In 1878 the Conservatives drew together into one Act, the Factory law which had become exceedingly complicated. Improvements were at the same time carried out; overtime and nightwork were restricted.

Years of Waiting.

One Act, passed in 1883, is the only mark of Radical work between 1880 and 1885.

In 1887, by the help of the Unionists, a Truck Act was passed.

Later Conservative and Unionist Work.

Workers in cotton cloth factories were protected from damp and dust by Acts passed in 1889 and 1897.

Dangerous machinery, ventilation, escape from fire, child labour, and larger powers of inspection were dealt with by the Factory and Workshops Act, 1891.

Illegal fines were done away with by the passing of the Truck Act, 1896.

The Workmen's Compensation Act secures to factory workers compensation for accidents. In the case of death, their nearest relatives benefit.

"Most Comprehensive."

All these factory measures were reduced to the limits of one Act by the Unionists in 1901.

Before this the law was spread over a dozen Acts. How carefully the worker is protected may be gathered from the fact that the Act of 1901 consists of 163 clauses and 7 schedules.

Improvements in the law were also effected. Ventilation, drainage and sanitary accommodation were attended to; children under twelve were forbidden to work; home-work was regulated.

Of this Act, Mr. Bowerman, the labour leader, in his Presidential address to the Trades Union Congress, said:—

"In all respects it was the most comprehensive work of the kind yet placed on the Statute-book."—*Swansea*, 3rd September, 1901.

Help on the Work.

The Unionists have worked hard for you. To them you owe great improvements in your factories and workshops.

As they have shown their regard for your comfort and safety in the past, so are they ready to do so in the future.

The one thing they want to carry on their work is

YOUR SUPPORT.

Vote for the Unionist Candidate.

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(C.C.O.—No. 515.)

Who Are Your Friends?

TRIBUTES FROM RADICAL AND LABOUR REPRESENTATIVES.

The Radicals are always telling you that **they** are the friends of the working classes, and that the Unionists are their enemies.

But take this statement with a pinch of salt.

Read these tributes from honoured Radical and Labour representatives, and decide for yourself the question of

"Who are Your Friends?"

MR. BURT, M.P., *has represented Morpeth since* 1874; *a miner for many years; General Secretary of the Northumberland Miners' Association since* 1865.

Speaking of the Coal Mines Regulation Act, passed by the Unionists in 1887, he said that it was:—

"The greatest measure of the kind that had ever yet been passed by the British Parliament."

"It would do much to protect life and limb, mitigate suffering, and lessen the still enormous loss of life that occurs in connection with the mining industry."—*Edinburgh*, October 11th, 1887.

On another occasion he said:—

"Some of the most beneficial legislation of our time, like the Factory Act, (passed by a Conservative Government) has been passed."—*Eighty Club Dinner*, December 2nd, 1890.

MR. JOHN BURNS, M.P. *for Battersea, President of the Local Government Board.*

"The Conservative Government have granted a Select Committee to inquire into the hours of railway men, also a Royal Commission to report upon the relations of employers and employed in all industries, and as these had caused the companies to reduce hours on all sides—aye, and increase wages too—you as railway men know that a substantial victory has been gained."—*Camden Town*, January 17th, 1892.

Speaking of the Conciliation Act passed by the Unionists in 1896, he said :—

"There were many causes which had led to the reduction in the number of strikes, and the chief was the Conciliation Act."—*Battersea*, January 3rd, 1897.

MR. MAWDSLEY, *a Member of the Royal Commission on Labour, and General Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Cotton Spinners.*

"His reasons for this preference on the part of the operatives for a Conservative Government were that the cotton operatives of Manchester have generally found a Conservative Government more friendly to them than a Liberal Government, and furthermore, that Conservative employers, as a rule, are more generous and more kindly to their men than are Liberal employers."—*Manchester*, September 29th, 1891.

MR. GEORGE HOWELL, *late M.P. for Bethnal Green (N.E.), and at one time Secretary of the London Trades' Council.*

Said that the Employers and Workmen Act and the Conspiracy Act, passed by the Conservatives in 1875, were :—

"A great boon to the industrial classes—as, in fact, the charter of their social and industrial freedom."—*Preface to Handybook of Labour Laws.*

MR. A. STEWART, *Secretary of the Notts Miners' Association.*

Of the Truck Act of 1896, he said :—

"If it had been any other Government in power the measure would have been lauded up to the skies. He considered it to be of great benefit to the working classes. He was not a Conservative himself, but as a class he was prepared to accept such measures as these."—*Hucknall*, April 1st, 1897.

MR. BEN TILLET, *Secretary of the Dock Workers' Union.*

"I should be a hypocrite were I not to say the Unionists of late had done more for the working classes than the Liberals had."—*Bradford*, January 15th, 1892.

MR. ASQUITH, M.P., *Radical Chancellor of the Exchequer.*

Said that the Truck Act passed by the Unionists in 1896 was :—

"Intended to afford additional protection to the workpeople in all trades against fines and deductions which were at present in too many cases exacted from them without their knowledge or consent."—*House of Commons*, July 27th, 1896.

MR. MUNDELLA, *ex-Radical Member for Sheffield (Brightside Division), and President of the Board of Trade*, 1886 *and* 1892-94.

"The Conservative Party had always been the friends of the toilers."—*House of Commons*, 6th May, 1874.

Of the Conciliation Act passed by the Unionists in 1896, he said :—

"In its working, the Conciliation Act, though it was only passed last August, had already proved most beneficent. The operation of the Act had proved a blessing to thousands and tens of thousands of people."—*House of Commons*, January 28th, 1897.

MR. H. MACDONALD, *ex-M.P. for Stafford, at one time Secretary of the Miners' Association for Scotland and President of the Miners' National Association.*

"The Conservative Party have done more for the working classes in the last five years than the Liberals have in fifty. You have gained more from the Conservatives in respect to matters affecting the working men than the Liberals would ever dare have granted."—*Stafford*, January 14th, 1879.

MR. HENRY BROADHURST, M.P., *a Radical and Labour Member.*

Said that he believed that the Workmen's Compensation Act passed by the Unionists in 1897 :—

"Contained within its four corners great and lasting good to many of the toilers, who under other schemes would be more or less uncertain as to what compensation they would obtain."—*House of Commons*, July 15th, 1897.

MR. W. ABRAHAM, M.P. (*Mabon*), *the Miners' Member for the Rhondda Division of Glamorgan.*

Said of the same Act :—

"That as long as any Government conferred such boons as these on the working men he represented, he should be ready to support them."—*House of Commons*, July 15th, 1897.

THE LATE MR. PARROTT, *late Radical M.P. for Normanton, and Agent of the Yorkshire Miners' Association.*

Said that :—

"The Act was a great improvement on any Act of Parliament that had been passed in favour of the working classes in this country."—*Edinburgh*, January 11th, 1899.

MR. C. BOWERMAN, *Labour Candidate for Deptford and President of the Trades Union Congress*, 1901.

Said that the Unionist Factory Act, 1901, was :—

"In all respects the most comprehensive measure of the kind yet placed on the Statute-book."—*Swansea*, September 3rd, 1901.

REYNOLDS' NEWSPAPER on the Truck Act, 1896.

"We shall be no parties, therefore, to discrediting the Government on a false issue. We have explained how far the Act goes, and we say distinctly that it is an improvement on previous Acts."—February 21st, 1897.

DAILY CHRONICLE on the Unionist Conciliation Act, 1896.

"The Conciliation Act has only been in force for a little over two months, but it is already beginning to bear excellent fruit. During the present week two strikes have been virtually settled by the exercise of conciliatory powers vested in the Board of Trade."—December 15th, 1896.

These extracts from speeches by Radical and Labour politicians show you that the Conservatives have a far better claim than the Radicals to be called

"THE FRIENDS OF THE WORKING MAN."

Their work in the past is a guarantee of their work in the future. Show that you recognise what they have done for the workers by giving

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(C.C.O.—No. 514.)

WHAT THE

Conservatives & Unionists

HAVE DONE FOR

THE MINERS.

In the mining districts the Radicals are always saying that they are the **true** friends of the miners; that the Conservatives never have done anything, nor will they ever do anything, to improve the condition of the miners.

These remarks are contrary to **facts.** The Conservative Party have always been foremost in introducing and supporting measures of reform.

That it is so is clearly borne out by the following facts :—

A Hideous System.

It was due to a Conservative that the first great mining reform was begun.

Thanks to Lord Shaftesbury, a Royal Commission was appointed in 1840 to enquire into the condition of the workers in the mines.

A hideous system was brought to light. Boys and girls six years of age were sent to the pits to work as trappers and hurriers.

The hurriers had to drag the corves containing the coal by means of belts fixed round their naked waists.

The trappers had to sit by their doors in total darkness for twelve hours a day.

These little slaves spent their lives in solitude, damp and darkness.

Action by Conservatives.

As a result of this disgraceful state of affairs, an Act was passed under the Conservative Government which

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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Action by Conservatives.

As a result of this disgraceful state of affairs, an Act was passed under the Conservative Government which

prohibited the employment underground of females and of boys under ten years.

Radicals fought against reform. One asked if the children were to be allowed to "wander about in idleness."

The House of Lords and the Bishops strongly supported it.

Prevention of Accidents.

In 1849 the House of Lords appointed a Committee, on which body were many Conservatives, to find out how accidents could be better prevented.

The result of their enquiries was the Mines Act passed by the Radical Government of 1850. It was, however, **opposed** by many Radicals.

In 1855 a more complete Act was passed **without any opposition**.

Further Action.

In 1860 an Act was passed providing for ventilation, locking safety lamps, and other securities.

In 1864 a Royal Commission on metalliferous mines was appointed. On this Commission were many Conservatives.

Two years later, in 1866, the House of Commons appointed a Select Committee. Among the members were the late Lord Salisbury (then Lord Cranborne) and other Conservatives.

Mines Regulation Act, 1872.

For three years the Radical Government took no action on the report of the Committee, owing **"to questions of greater political importance."**

At length, in 1872, a Bill was passed. In this the Conservatives gave the greatest help, which was acknowledged by Mr. Bruce, the Home Secretary.

It was due to the Conservatives that the following provisions were included:—

(i.) Daily inspection of ventilation of dangerous mines.

(ii.) Constant attendance at the shaft.

(iii.) Examination of managers.

A proposal to allow the relatives of miners accidentally killed to be represented at the inquest was warmly supported by Conservatives, but was defeated by the Radicals.

Equal Treatment.

In 1875 the Conservative Government passed the Employers and Workmen Act, by which miners and their employers are placed on **an equality before the law** in all cases relating to contracts for labour.

Breach of contract was made a civil, not a criminal offence.

Royal Commission.

The frequent occurrence of serious explosions in mines led Lord Beaconsfield to appoint a Royal Commission, upon which sat the most eminent scientists and well-known Conservatives, to see how best human life could be saved.

Mr. Burt, M.P., represented the miners.

Their enquiries extended over nearly seven years. The Act of 1887 forms the basis of their report.

Radical Obstruction.

In the meantime, Lord Cross (then Sir R. Cross) introduced a Bill in 1886 to enable miners (i.) to appoint their own check-weighers, and (ii.) to let relatives of deceased miners be present at inquests.

This Bill was **opposed** and **obstructed** by Mr. Broadhurst, a Member of the Radical Government. In spite of that, however, the Conservatives were successful, and the Bill became law.

"The Greatest Measure."

One of the first subjects taken in hand by the Unionists in 1887 was the Mines Regulation Act, based on the report of the Royal Commission.

The Act effected improvements all round in the condition of the miners by making for safety, and by securing independence of check-weighers.

Of this Act, Mr. BURT, M.P. *for Morpeth, and General Secretary to the Northumberland Miners' Association*, said that it was :—

"The greatest measure of the kind that has ever yet been passed by the British Parliament.

"It would do much to protect life and limb, mitigate suffering, and lessen the still enormous loss of life that occurs in connection with the mining industry."—*Edinburgh*, October 11th, 1887.

Recent Unionist Legislation.

In 1896 the Unionists passed an Act by which additional precautions had to be taken for the safety of the miners. It also provided for miners to be represented when disputes are referred to arbitration.

Workmen's Compensation Act.

This Act, passed by the Unionists in 1897, altogether benefits more than 7,000,000 workers, including miners.

It provides payment to those injured by accidents whilst at work. If they are killed their relatives are given compensation.

The late Mr. PARROTT, M.P. *for Normanton* 1904-5, *and Agent of the Yorkshire Miners' Association*, said :—

"The Act was a great improvement on any Act of Parliament that had been passed in favour of the working classes in this country."—*Edinburgh*, January 11th, 1899.

Support the Conservatives and Unionists.

These facts should show you that Conservatives and Unionists are ever ready to help you on; to give you safety and better conditions of life and work.

They have done much for you in the past; if you want them to assist you in the future, give them

YOUR SUPPORT.

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(C.C.O.—No. 511.)

Conservatives and Labour.

A RECORD OF WORK.

"They (trade unions) must continue their noble work of ameliorating the conditions of employment of their fellow toilers; of protecting their lives and limbs in their employment; of securing compensation for all who were maimed or killed at their work; of improving the conditions of their homes and surroundings; of securing the best system of education for their children, so that the nation could have the service of its best brains: of promoting temperance amongst their class: of securing for their worn-out industrial warriors a well-deserved retiring allowance."

With these words, Mr. Bell, M.P., ended his address at the Trade Union Congress, 1904. Conservatives do not quarrel with this programme. They support it—as they have supported it in the past. **Every one of the aims mentioned by Mr. Bell has been the subject of Unionist action.** Let us take Mr. Bell's remarks, sentence by sentence, and the statement will soon be clear.

They must continue their noble work:—

1. Of ameliorating the conditions of employment of their fellow toilers.

Since 1802, about 40 Acts dealing with employment in factories and workshops have been passed, and two-thirds of these, including those of the greatest importance, have been the work of the Unionist party.

Since 1886, the Unionists have passed the following Acts:—

Agricultural Labourers' Wages Act, 1886, gives wages the first claim in case of an employer's bankruptcy.

Cotton Cloth Factories Acts, 1889 and 1897, protect the workers from damp and dust.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1891, improves the conditions in factories.

Conciliation (Trade Disputes) Act, 1896, enables disputes to be settled in a peaceful way.

Truck Acts Amendment Act, 1896, abolishes illegal fines. As a result fines are done away with in many places.

Seats for Shop Assistants Act, 1899, makes employers provide seats.

Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, amends the law in the interest of the workers.

Shop Clubs Act, 1902, does away with unregistered clubs.

Shop Hours Act, 1904, provides for shorter hours in shops.

2. Of protecting their lives and limbs in their employment, Unionist legislation includes:—

Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1887, restricts employment of children and increases safeguards against accidents.

Railway Regulation Act, 1889, for the safety of railway workers.

Alkali Works Act, 1892, protects the worker.

Merchant Shipping Act, 1892, provides for the health and safety of sailors.

Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896, protects the miner from accidents and makes sure that his interests are looked after in disputes.

Chaff-Cutting Machines Act, 1897, provides for the safety of the worker by fencing dangerous parts.

Dangerous Performances Act, 1897, prohibits young persons from taking part in them.

Railway Employment Act, 1900, better prevents accidents to railway servants.

Employment of Children Act, 1903, regulates child labour.

3. Of securing compensation for all who were maimed or killed in their work.

In 1897, the Unionists passed the Workmen's Compensation Act, which gives compensation in the case of accidents to workers on railways and buildings, in mines, quarries, and factories, and to engineers.

In 1900, the benefits were extended so as to include agricultural labourers.

The Unionists appointed a committee to enquire into the working of the Act. A Bill embodying their recommendations is to be expected.

4. Of improving the conditions of their homes and surroundings.

The Conservatives have passed the following measures:—

Dwellings of the Working Classes Acts, 1885-90, ensure healthy houses and promote the erection of cheap dwellings.

Allotments and Cottage Gardens Act, 1887, gives allotment holders compensation for improvements and labour.

Labourers' Allotments Acts, 1887-90, give labourers an opportunity of acquiring allotments.

Infectious Diseases Act, 1890, enforces disinfective and preventive measures.

Allotments Rating Act, 1891, reduces the sanitary rates on allotments to the same scale as those on market gardens.

Small Agricultural Holdings Act, 1892, makes it easier to get these holdings.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899, enables the worker to borrow money on easy terms to buy his house with.

Housing Act, 1900, gives local authorities extended powers to build houses.

Housing Act, 1903, makes it easier for working class dwellings to be built.

5. Of securing the best system of education for their children so that the nation could have the service of its best brains.

The Unionists have always given great attention to popular education, as the following record will show:—

Technical Instruction Acts, 1887-89, enable local authorities to establish or aid schools for teaching trades.

Technical Instruction Act, 1890, gives the local authorities power to supply such instruction out of the rates.

Museums and Gymnasiums Act, 1891, enables local authorities to provide these means of instruction and recreation.

Elementary Education Act, 1891, gives free education to the people.

Technical and Industrial Institutions Act, 1892, makes it easy for local bodies to establish schools for this kind of education.

Education Act, 1902, puts education on a systematic footing, controlled by one local authority. Makes complete the ladder from Elementary School to University.

London Education Act, 1903, does the same thing for London.

6. Of promoting temperance amongst their class.

This is a brief record of what the Unionists have done for temperance:—

Inebriates Act, 1898, makes it easy for this class to try to reform.

Licensing Act, 1902, protects the wife or husband of an habitual drunkard, and

provides for the registration of clubs.

Licensing (Scotland) Act, 1903, reforms the licensing law in Scotland.

Licensing Act, 1904, provides for the reduction of unnecessary licences and the public control of future licences.

7. Of securing for their worn-out industrial warriors a well-deserved retiring allowance.

The Unionists have always shown themselves in sympathy with Old Age Pensions. A practical scheme has yet to be found. But until that is done, the Unionists have done their best to protect and extend Friendly Societies and Savings Banks.

Trustee Savings Bank Act, 1887, enables official enquiry to be made into the state of doubtful banks.

Savings Banks Act, 1891, imposes stringent securities against frauds and ensures complete inspection of the accounts.

Collecting Societies Act, 1896, consolidates the law.

Friendly Societies Act, 1896, consolidates the law.

Savings Banks Act, 1904, provides for the better control of these institutions.

Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Act, 1904, provides that recipients of 5s. a week or less from Friendly Societies are not to have any outdoor relief lessened because of such pay from Friendly Societies.

This is a brief record of what Unionists have done for Labour in recent years.

It shows you that they are the real friends of the workers. What they have done in the past is a proof of what they will do in the future.

Help them by your support

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(C.C.O.—No. 510.)

7,000,000

BRITISH WORKMEN BENEFITED.

7,000,000 British workmen, and more, have benefited by two Conservative Acts. Among them are:—

Factory workers	3,600,000
Bricklayers, labourers and others engaged on houses and other buildings	1,132,000
Miners and quarrymen . .	970,000
Engineers and navvies . .	910,000
Agricultural labourers . .	900,000
Dock and wharf labourers . .	115,000
	7,627,000

These are the workmen who have benefited by the Unionist Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900.

What the Unionist Acts do.

Every factory worker, railway servant, miner, quarryman, engineer, navvy, bricklayer and others at work on buildings more than 30 feet high (painters, glaziers, &c.); every dock labourer, and every farm hand gets compensation paid him when he is injured in an accident.

If the injured person dies, then his dependents get the money.

What the Workman gets.

Here are some examples of what injured workmen have got as the result of this Act.

	£
Carpenter and machinist (left hand permanently injured)	350
Spinner (right hand permanently disabled)	330

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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	£
Woodworker (thumb and two fingers of right hand cut off)	300
Craneman (leg amputated) . . .	180
Engineer (loss of an eye) . . .	175

In the case of weekly payments, the workmen get between 10s. and 13s., according to the severity of the accident.

In 1903, 324 fatal cases came into the county courts for settlement, and the amount awarded was £58,530.

Radical Act no good.

In 1880, the Radicals passed an Act—the Employers' Liability Act. This Act only made the employer liable for compensation if his machinery was defective, or if the accident were the result of his foremen neglecting their duties.

It was not successful.

This is what the recent Committee say about it:—

> "The Act, in fact, never had any very large or extensive operation. Compared with the number of accidents, the number of actions brought was exceedingly small, and in a large proportion of them the workman failed. Regarded, therefore, as a means of obtaining compensation for injury by accident with a reasonable degree of certainty, the Employers' Liability Act of 1880 must be considered to have been a failure."—(*Report. Para.* 11.)

Mr. James Jack, the Secretary of the Associated Ironmoulders of Scotland, when asked whether his organisation had any case under the Radical Act, said: "No, not since the Workmen's Compensation Act came into force."—(*Evidence. Q.* 8629.)

Charges refuted.

Radicals are very fond of telling you that the lawyers and solicitors get much of the compensation in the shape of their charges, and that the number of cases which have to be settled in the law courts is very large.

The Committee enquired into these charges, and found that they were not true. They came to the conclusion that—

> "The amount of actual litigation produced by the Workmen's Compensation Acts of 1897 and 1900 has been very small when compared with the great number of cases settled by agreement without recourse whatever to legal aid, or to proceedings in Court."—(*Report. Para.* 45.)

The Home Office in their last annual report say that in claims for injury not more than **1 in every 100** are disputed in the Courts.

Then we come to the other Radical charge, the legal costs. Well, the Committee found that the averages were—

Radical Act, 1880 - - - - -	**£25**
Unionist Acts, 1897 and 1900 - -	**£11**

Mr. Thomas Richards, the Secretary to the South Wales Miners' Federation, who represents between 125,000 and 130,000 men, said that the Act—

> "Has, on the whole, worked highly satisfactorily; the proportion of cases in which it has been found necessary to have recourse to the Courts being infinitesimally small in comparison to the number of cases which are daily settled between the parties concerned."—(*Evidence. Q.* 5121.)

So, too, Mr. Walter Stevenson, Secretary of the United Builders' and Labourers' Union, representing 10,000 workmen, says—

> "About 90 or 95 per cent. of our cases are settled without the cost of legal proceedings."—(*Evidence. Q.* 2584.)

Extend the Benefits.

Of the Act of 1897, it has been said:

> "It is difficult to over-rate the boldness or importance of the step then taken by the Legislature."—(*Report of Committee. Para.* 10.)

But the Unionist Party are not content with what they have done. They want to do more, to have the benefits of the Act extended and increased.

A Committee was appointed in 1903 to enquire into the working of the Acts, and to find out how it can be extended.

That Committee have since reported. If you want more of your fellow-workers to get the benefits of compensation, show that you appreciate what the Unionist Party have

already done by supporting their leader, Mr. Balfour, and the Unionist Party generally.

Labour Leaders praise the Act.

How good is this Act may be seen from the following selection of tributes by labour leaders :—

Mr. W. Abraham, M.P. (*Mabon*), *Miners' Member for the Rhondda Division of Glamorgan.*

"As long as any Government conferred such boons as these on the working men he represented he should be ready to support them."—*House of Commons*, July 15th, 1897.

At another time he said—

"He was prepared to admit to the full that the Workmen's Compensation Act was the greatest measure they had received from any Government."—*Miners' Federation, Birmingham*, October 3rd, 1901.

The late Mr. Parrott, M.P. *for Normanton, and Agent of the Yorkshire Miners' Association.*

"The Act was a great improvement on any Act of Parliament that had been passed in favour of the working classes in this country."—*Edinburgh*, January 11th, 1899.

Mr. Henry Broadhurst, M.P., *a Radical and Labour Member.*

"Contained within its four corners great and lasting good to many of the toilers who, under other schemes, would be more or less uncertain as to what compensation they would obtain."—*House of Commons*, July 15th, 1897.

Mr. Henry Austin, *Foreman Carpenter in the South Metropolitan Gas Company.*

"I may say I have generally possessed the confidence of my fellows, and the working of the Act, as far as my thoughts will allow me to form a judgment, is good, and meets every requirement that business would suggest."—(*Evidence.* Q. 7164.)

Mr. Richardson, *President of the Dublin Trades Council*, on behalf of 80,000 organised workers in Ireland, says—

"The Act has been a very material benefit. A great number of cases are settled outside the Court."—(*Evidence.* Q. 2738, 2740.)

VOTE FOR THE UNIONIST CANDIDATE.

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N.U.—No. 509.

Working-Class Legislation

PASSED BY

Conservatives & Unionists

The following list contains some, not by any means all, of the Measures passed solely or mainly in the interests of the Working Classes, by Conservative and Conservative and Unionist Governments.

1. **The health of the people** has been improved and disease prevented by numerous Health Acts. The Public Health Acts of 1867, 1875 and 1891, the Infectious Diseases Acts of 1889 and 1896, the Canal Boats Act of 1877, and the Baths and Wash-houses Act of 1882, are only a few of the many.

2. **The protection of the savings of the poor** has been accomplished by a series of different Acts, such as the Building Societies Acts of 1874, the Friendly Societies Acts, 1875, 1876, 1887, 1889 and 1896, the Savings Banks Acts of 1887 and 1891, providing increased security against fraud, &c.

3. The system of **free education for the children of the people** was initiated by the Elementary Education Act of 1876, exempting poorer parents from paying school fees for their children, and completed by the Elementary Education Act of 1891. For the improvement of the teaching, the organising of the system, the provision of education for defective children, &c., Acts have been passed in 1890, 1891, 1892, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900 and 1902.

The teaching of handicrafts was also provided for by the Technical Instruction Acts, 1887, 1889 and 1891, and the Technical and Industrial Institutions Act of 1892.

4. Full liberty was first given to working men to form trades unions by the **Repeal of the Combination Laws** in 1824—43 years before the artisans of the towns were admitted to the franchise by the Conservative

Government in 1867. The liberty of combination was further **extended by the Act of 1859**, allowing workmen to enter into agreements for fixing wages and hours, and again extended by the **Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act, 1875.**

5. The **Trades Unions** question was thoroughly investigated by the Royal Commission appointed in 1867 by the Conservative Government. As a result, the Trades Union Act of 1871, and the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1871, were passed by Mr. Gladstone's Government, carrying out the recommendations of the Commission.

6. **The vote was for the first time given to working men** in boroughs and towns, by the Reform Act of 1867.

7. Imprisonment for breach of contract was abolished, and civil remedy substituted by the **Employers and Workmen Act, 1875.**

8. **The fair payment of wages to working men** has been secured to them by numerous Truck Acts. That of 1831 provided that the entire wages of artificers in the trades there specified should be paid in money. This was extended in 1874 to the hosiery trade, in which the truck system was flagrant, by the **Hosiery Manufacture Act.** Under Lord Salisbury's Government in 1887 the previous Truck Acts were revised and amended by the **Truck Amendment Act,** extending their provisions to all workmen not agricultural. **The prevention of unfair fines and deductions** was provided for by the Truck Act of 1896.

9. The purity of food was ensured by the **Sale of Food and Drugs Act of 1875,** amended in 1879, making adulteration a punishable offence.

10. The public right to **open spaces for recreation** was secured by the Commons Act, 1876, which prohibited illegal enclosures.

11. Seamen's lives were protected, and the overcrowding of ships prevented, by the **Unseaworthy Ships Act, 1876.**

12. The **Shop Assistants (Seating) Act** was passed in 1899.

13. Aged married couples were secured from separation in workhouses by the **Poor Law Act of 1876.**

14. **The Weights and Measures Act, 1878-89** prevented fraud on the workers by ensuring just weight and punishing dishonesty.

15. The **payment of wages in public houses** was prohibited by the Act of 1884.

16. The **wages of agricultural labourers** were given first claim in cases of employers' bankruptcy, by the Agricultural Labourers' Wages Act, 1886.

17. **The safety and welfare of miners** has been the object of many Acts passed by Conservative Governments. The **Coal Mines Act of 1886** removed several causes of complaint among miners. **The great Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887** restricted the employment of children,

and made stringent regulations for ensuring safety for the miners, in the matters of fire, ventilation, shafts, &c. **Mr. T. Burt, M.P.,** described it as "the greatest measure of the kind that had ever yet been passed by the British Parliament." It was, however, still further improved in its precautions, by an amending Act in 1896.

18. The Labourers' Allotment Acts, 1887-90, provided means for the **acquisition of allotments** by the labouring population.

19. **Compensation for improvements and labour** was granted to allotment holders by the Allotments and Cottage Gardens Act, 1887.

20. The **letting of glebes for allotments** was allowed to the clergy by the Glebe Lands Act, 1888.

21. **The reduction of sanitary rates** on allotments was reduced to the same scale as those on market gardens, &c., by the **Allotments' Rating Act, 1891.**

22. To prevent substitutes for butter being sold as butter, the **Margarine Act, 1887,** was passed.

23. Working men were given a **larger share in county government** in England and Scotland by the Local Government Acts, 1888-89.

24. The children of the working classes were safe-guarded from overwork and other dangers by the **Protection of Children Acts,** passed in 1889, 1897 and 1903.

25. **The safety of railway passengers and servants** was increased by the Railway Regulation Act, 1889.

26. The **food of the poor** was protected by the prohibition of the fraudulent sale of horse flesh for human food, in the Horse Flesh Act, 1889.

27. **Many taxes have been reduced** by Conservative Governments. That on Hawkers' Licences was lowered in 1888; the House Duty was reduced in 1891, and in the same year that on Currants was reduced. Friendly Societies were freed from Income Tax in 1889, and Local Rates have been relieved in 1887, 1888 and 1891. In addition to these reductions, the working classes have now no school fees to pay.

28. **Shop Hours Act, 1892,** prohibited the employment of young persons in or about shops for more than 74 hours per week.

29. **A cheap and quick means for the conveyance** of persons and produce from the rural districts to market towns was provided by the Light Railways Act, 1896.

30. The **settlement of trade disputes** by arbitration was facilitated and promoted by the Conciliation Act, 1896, which Mr. John Burns says is the chief cause of the reduction in the number of strikes.

31. **Workmen and their dependents are provided for in case of accident and injury** by the **Workmen's Compensation Act of 1897,**

which made the employer liable for the payment of compensation to the injured man. This benefit was **extended to agricultural labourers** in 1900.

32. The **Better Housing of the Working Classes** has always been one of the main objects of Conservative legislation. Numerous Acts have been passed, enforcing cleanliness, preventing over-crowding, providing lodging houses for the labouring classes, empowering local authorities to repair or close places unfit for habitation, extending such benefits to rural districts and helping tenants to become owners. With these aims laws were passed in 1851, 1868, 1875, 1879, 1885, 1890, 1899 and 1900, in addition to the passing of a resolution providing for the housing of poor people turned out by railway and other Companies, in 1884 and, likewise at the instance of Lord Salisbury, the appointment of a Royal Commission to suggested improvements in existing Acts, in the same year.

33. The **Shop Clubs Act, 1902,** prohibited compulsory membership of unregistered shop clubs or thrift funds, and regulated such as are duly registered.

34. To assist the working man to find employment, and **diminish the number of unemployed,** the Labour Bureaux (London) Act was passed in 1902, authorising the establishment of Labour Bureaux throughout the Metropolis, whilst by the Unemployed Workmen's Act, 1905, the genuine working man out of employ is assisted.

35. Provision made for the legal defence of poor prisoners, where it is desirable in the interests of justice, by the **Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, 1903.**

36. The **Shop Hours Act, 1904,** provides for the early closing of shops, by giving powers to Local Authorities to fix the hours for local closing.

37. The **Aliens' Act, 1905,** prevents the British working man from having to compete against foreign pauper labour.

38. **The welfare of workers in factories** has been vastly improved by the incessant legislating of Conservative Governments. Acts reducing the hours of labour, establishing the half-time system, safeguarding the lives of the workers, making sanitary regulations, &c., applying to hundreds of thousands of workers in blast furnaces, copper mills, iron foundries, machinery works, paper, glass, tobacco, printing and bookbinding trades, were passed in 1802, 1819, 1820, 1829, 1833, 1844, 1845, 1847, 1850, 1856, 1860, 1867, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1878, 1889, 1891, 1897, 1901 and 1903.

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(C.C.O.—No. 508.)

MINING ROYALTIES.

UNIONIST ACTION.

In 1889 the Unionist Government appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the question of mining royalties.

After an exhaustive inquiry, extending over a period of four years, they issued a final report in 1893. This report was signed by all the members, including the representatives of the miners.

THE UNITED KINGDOM.

As regards the system of mining royalties in the United Kingdom, the Commissioners came to the following conclusions:—

(1) That it has not interfered with the general development of the mineral resources of the United Kingdom.

(2) That it has not checked our export trade in coal.

(3) That the terms and conditions under which these payments are made are not, generally speaking, such as to require interference by legislation.

Let us look at the amount of these royalties. Are they as high as Radical speakers would have us believe? No, indeed! The Commission estimated

that in the United Kingdom the average royalty on coal was about 5d. per ton; on iron ore, about 9d. per ton. On the west coast of England, where the iron ore is extremely valuable, the royalty is higher. Most of the mines in this district, however, work on a sliding scale system, which regulates the amount of the royalty to the selling price of the ore.

FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Let us look now at the situation in foreign countries. You are often told by Radical speakers of the blessings mining industries in other countries enjoy because they have no royalties to pay.

This statement is not true. There are royalties, though they may perhaps go under another name. The great increase in the production of pig iron in foreign countries is not caused by freer mining, but by their high tariff walls, which shuts out our goods, and gives them a safe home market.

To quote the words of the Commission: "It is obvious that such duties must have a more important effect on the home production and export of manufactured iron than any existing system of royalties."

In foreign countries mine workers have to pay for the right to obtain coal or ore, just as they do here.

A payment, first of all, has to be made to the State: in France and Belgium, 5 per cent. on net produce of the mine; in Germany, 2 per cent. on value of the output sold. Next, payment (this does not always exist in Germany) has to be made to the

landlord, in some cases almost as heavy as the English royalty.

But this is not all. In France, Germany and Spain competitive royalties—fixed in the same way as in England, and of similar amount—have to be paid by the actual employer of labour to the person to whom the State has granted the right of mining. Taxes are also imposed on the profits, for the relief and insurance of miners, and for State and local purposes.

We will now take the case of the United States. The royalties are much higher than in Great Britain, the averages being:—

Bituminous coal, 7d. per ton.
Anthracite coal, 1s. 3d. to 1s. 8d. per ton.
Iron ore, about 2s. per ton.

We find then that the foreign system is not so favourable as we might be led to imagine from Radical arguments.

TAXATION OF ROYALTIES.

This is a plank of the Radical platform programme. At present, however, it has never got any further. Royalties are already taxed, like rent is. Why should they be taxed more? Additional taxation would mean increased royalties. It would mean smaller profits, and less wages for the miner.

NATIONALIZATION OF MINERALS.

Before the Royal Commission, several of the leaders of the English miners strongly opposed

nationalization. This is what Mr. James Haslam, a representative of the Miners' Federation, said about such proposals:—

'I want my friend to remember this, that there are men, working men even, who buy little plots of land, sometimes to build on, sometimes for agricultural purposes. Those men, anywhere near mining districts, have bought them at a price subject to the mineral—they have bought them at a price subject to that—and I should not think it right to take away those men's minerals, and not pay them for the mineral."

During the Radical Administration of 1892-5, Mr. S. Woods brought the matter before the House of Commons, on April 6th, 1894. Mr. Asquith, then Home Secretary, replied on behalf of the Government:—

The subject, he said, had undergone a long and laborious investigation by a particularly able Commission, composed with the utmost impartiality, and it was now proposed to reverse their decision. The Royalty, rents and wayleaves amounted to an annual sum of about £5,000,000, and, if the State was to acquire them, it must acquire the mines and minerals, open and unopened, throughout Great Britain and Ireland. This would cost £150,000,000. How would the State recoup itself? No case whatever had been made out for the proposed change. The Government, therefore, asked the House to negative the motion.

(Ref.)

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N.U.—No. 512

WHY WORKING MEN

SHOULD SUPPORT THE

CONSERVATIVE AND UNIONIST PARTY.

Radical speakers and canvassers are making the most persistent endeavours to prejudice working men against the Conservative and Unionist Party. Unionists are constantly mis-represented as being hostile to the interests and welfare of the working man.

The truth is that the Conservatives and Unionists have continued the traditional policy of the Conservative party which is to legislate for the social and moral well-being of the working men of this country. The following list of Acts, passed since August, 1895, is proof of this, and will provide a good and sufficient answer to those Radicals who are so fond of inquiring, "What have the Unionists done for the working men?"

The Truck Act, 1896.—This Act affords additional protection to the workpeople by providing against any unfair deduction from their wages by means of unjust fines, or fines unreasonably imposed, and has worked most beneficially.

The Conciliation Act, 1896, which introduced a method of settling labour disputes through the Board of Trade, by arbitration and otherwise. A marked reduction in the number of strikes has ensued through the peaceful settlement of disputes between employers and men.

The Public Health Act, 1896, protects the health of all persons connected with shipping, by providing for further regulations for the control and detention of vessels having any case of epidemic, endemic or infectious disease on board.

The Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1896.—This Act enables the special rules under the Act of 1887 to be amended and modified, and increases the powers of the Home Secretary to make precautionary regulations as to lights and lamps in mines; the use and storing of explosives; the time and manner of firing shots; the watering and damping of mines; the prevention of accident from gas and coal dust, &c.

The Light Railways Act, 1896.—Cheap and quick means of transit for persons and goods from the rural districts to market towns has been provided by this Act.

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

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The Light Railways Act, 1896.—Cheap and quick means of transit for persons and goods from the rural districts to market towns has been provided by this Act.

The Agricultural Rates Act, 1896, and the Continuance Acts, 1901 and 1905.—As a result of the relief given to Agriculture under these Acts the wages of agricultural labourers have been increased.

The London Cab Act, 1896.—For the prevention of frauds on cabmen, and to amend the London cab law.

The Friendly Societies Act, 1896.—The Collecting Societies and Industrial Assurance Companies Act, 1896.—To further add to the security of the people's savings by consolidating the various Acts relating to friendly societies and industrial assurance companies.

The Foreign Prison-made Goods Act, 1897.—This Act has completely stopped the importation of goods made in foreign prisons by the forced labour of convicts and felons, which previously competed with the products of British labour.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897.—Workmen in factories, on engineering works, on railways, on buildings 30 feet high, being built, repaired, or demolished, in mines and quarries, and their dependents, are provided for in case of accident and injury by this Act, which makes the employer liable for the payment of compensation to the injured man, or, in case of death, to the dependents.

The Chaff-cutting Machines (Accidents) Act, 1897.—For the prevention of accidents to those employed about chaff-cutting machines by the provision of safety-fittings and fencing.

The Merchant Shipping Act, 1897, protects seamen by giving power to the Board of Trade to detain foreign as well as British ships that may be undermanned.

The Cotton Cloth Factories Act, 1897.—The health of workers in cotton cloth factories is further protected by this Act, which extends the powers of the Home Secretary for excluding the introduction of excessive moisture into the air.

The Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, provided financial assistance for necessitous voluntary schools, with the object of removing the unfair advantage obtained by children in Board Schools over those children whose parents wished them to be educated in the schools of their faith.

The Merchant Shipping (Mercantile Marine Fund) Act, 1898, provides for the payment by shipowners of the cost of maintenance, clothing, conveyance home, &c., of any improperly discharged seaman; and for a monetary allowance to shipowners in respect of British boy sailors available for the Royal Naval Reserve.

The Societies' Borrowing Powers Act, 1898, enables specially-authorised societies, having for their object the creation of funds to be lent out to members, to borrow money from persons and corporations other than members.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899.—Working men are protected under this Act by the penalties imposed on any person importing impure and insufficiently-marked food, and by the greater powers given to the authorities to enable them to secure the sale of milk, butter, cheese and other food and drugs, in a pure and genuine condition.

The Poor Law Act, 1899.—This Act protects poor children by placing them in the care of the Guardians when their parents have (1) deserted them; (2) are unfit to have control; (3) are mentally or otherwise incapacitated; or in the case of the death of both parents.

The Seats for Shop Assistants Act, 1899.—This Act compels employers to provide seats for female shop assistants.

The Elementary Education (Defective and Epileptic Children) Act, 1899, provides for the welfare of children by enabling school authorities to provide for the education of defective children in special classes in existing schools, and epileptic children in new special schools.

The Anchors and Chain Cables Act, 1899.—To safeguard the lives of sailors by enforcing a more comprehensive test of all anchors and chain cables for use on British ships.

The Small Dwellings Acquisition Act, 1899, empowers local authorities to advance money for enabling artizans, clerks, and others to become the owners of the houses they inhabit.

The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1900.—This Act largely extends the powers of English local authorities to acquire land and provide lodging-houses for the working classes. It amends and strengthens the Act of 1890, which was also passed by a Unionist Government.

The Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900, provides for the framing of rules having for their object the reduction and removal of the dangers and risks incidental to railway servants.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1900.—This Act extends all the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897, to workmen employed in Agriculture.

The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.—This Act continues the policy of the Conservative Party regarding factory legislation by consolidating and simplifying the previous Factory Acts, further improving the sanitary condition of factories, increasing protection from fire and machinery, and securing to the workers better hours and conditions.

The Shop Clubs Act, 1902, prohibited compulsory membership of unregistered shop clubs or thrift funds, and regulated such as are duly registered.

The Police Reservists Act, 1902, provides that police constables who were called out for the Transvaal War may count the period in computing their service for a pension.

The Education Act, 1902, provides better education for the children by improving and bringing under one local authority primary, secondary, and higher education, and gives to all classes of recognised elementary schools the right to equal and adequate assistance out of the rates.

The Poor Prisoners Defence Act, 1903.—To enable poor prisoner to receive legal aid at the expense of the State.

The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1903, amends the law by extending the period for repayment, by local authorities, of loans to 80 years, and gives further powers to the Local Government Board with regard to re-housing.

The Education (London) Act, 1903, extends and adapts the Education Act of 1902 to London.

The Railways (Electrical Power) Act, 1903.—This Act will add to the existing means of transit by facilitating the introduction and use of electrical power on railways.

The Public Health Act, 1904.—To prevent the conveyance of infection by sea-going vessels.

The Shop Hours Act, 1904, provides for the early closing of shops by giving powers to local authorities to fix the hours for local closing.

The Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Act, 1904, provides that, in the granting of outdoor relief to any man who is a member of a friendly society, no sum less than five shillings weekly received by him from such society as sick pay may be taken into consideration.

The Weights and Measures Act, 1904.—To further protect the consumer by defining the duties of the Board of Trade with regard to the verification, stamping, and inspection of weights and measures.

The Hall-marking of Foreign Plate Act, 1904.—To safeguard the British workman by providing that all foreign imported plate shall be so marked as to readily distinguish it from British manufactures.

The Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.—To deal with the unemployed by establishing organisations throughout London and the country to inquire into and take measures to relieve cases of unemployment.

The Aliens Act, 1905.—To provide for the exclusion and expulsion of undesirable foreigners srom the United Kingdom.

And many other Acts not exclusively for the well-being of the working man, as, for instance, the **Dangerous Performances Act, 1897**; the **Infant Life Protection Act, 1897**; the **Vaccination Act, 1898**; the **Inebriates Act, 1898**; the **Youthful Offenders Act, 1901**; the **Licensing Act, 1902**; the **Employment of Children Act, 1903**; the **Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1904**; the **Licensing Act, 1904**; &c., &c., &c.

Electors! remember this is a record of the legislation, conferring benefits upon the working classes, passed **during the last ten years** only; it does not include any of the beneficent legislation passed by previous Unionist Administrations. Ask any Radical who sneers at the Unionist Governments of 1895-1905 if he can show you for the same number of years a record that can equal or even approach it.

Don't be deceived! Don't be misled! Trust the party of deeds, which has conferred upon you this splendid legislation, rather than the party of words, whose specious promises have on so many previous occasions remained unfulfilled.

Vote for the Unionist Candidate.

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LIBERALS AND LABOUR.

SOCIAL REFORMS BURKED BY THE LIBERAL PARTY.

WASTING TIME IN PARLIAMENT—Letter from Mr. J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.

Working men of the country are constantly being told by Liberal partisans that the Conservatives and Unionists waste time in Parliament and neglect opportunities of effecting social reforms. But Mr. J. Keir Hardie, the Labour M.P. for Merthyr Tydvil, knows the truth, and in a letter to *The Times* of March 23, 1905, very plainly and straightforwardly expresses it. This is what he says:—

"May I crave the courtesy of your columns to refer to a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the use to which Liberal M.P.'s are putting those private members' evenings which the chances of ballot have thus far thrown in their way? I refer to the re-affirmation, in varying forms, of their determination to uphold their free trade principles . . . they have declared in their amendment to the Address that for nearly two years the question has been "fully discussed," why, then, go on discussing it to the exclusion of other and more urgent topics upon which their opinions and intentions have not been made known? . . .

My object in writing this

is to point out to Liberals in the country that

the (Liberal) party in the House is deliberately burking discussions

on such topics of living interest as the provision of meals for starving school children, temperance reform, the taxation of unearned incomes, the unemployed, payment of members, adult suffrage, land nationalization, the better housing of the people, old age pensions, and the many other subjects upon which they are expected to legislate when next they are in office. The number of evenings allocated to private members is limited to two per week before Easter, and one per week from Easter to Whit week. Should it happen that none of the matters mentioned above are discussed this Session upon the only opportunities upon which there are likely to be openings—private members' evenings—we shall have the Liberal Opposition to thank for it. If

they go on monopolizing private members' time

in order to provide sport for the young bloods in the House,

they need not feel at all surprised if

their professed zeal for social reform

is regarded with cool suspicion

by the working classes."

This same Radical Party is now representing itself to you as the friends of the Working Man.

Issued by the Conservative Publication Department, St. Stephen's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., in connection with the National Union and the Conservative Central Office.

McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., Printers, "The Armoury," London, S.E. (405)

INTENTIONAL SECOND EXPOSURE

The Education (London) Act, 1903, extends and adapts the Education Act of 1902 to London.

The Railways (Electrical Power) Act, 1903.—This Act will add to the existing means of transit by facilitating the introduction and use of electrical power on railways.

The Public Health Act, 1904.—To prevent the conveyance of infection by sea-going vessels.

The Shop Hours Act, 1904, provides for the early closing of shops by giving powers to local authorities to fix the hours for local closing.

The Outdoor Relief (Friendly Societies) Act, 1904, provides that, in the granting of outdoor relief to any man who is a member of a friendly society, no sum less than five shillings weekly received by him from such society as sick pay may be taken into consideration.

The Weights and Measures Act, 1904.—To further protect the consumer by defining the duties of the Board of Trade with regard to the verification, stamping, and inspection of weights and measures.

The Hall-marking of Foreign Plate Act, 1904.—To safeguard the British workman by providing that all foreign imported plate shall be so marked as to readily distinguish it from British manufactures.

The Unemployed Workmen Act, 1905.—To deal with the unemployed by establishing organisations throughout London and the country to inquire into and take measures to relieve cases of unemployment.

The Aliens Act, 1905.—To provide for the exclusion and expulsion of undesirable foreigners from the United Kingdom.

And many other Acts not exclusively for the well-being of the working man, as, for instance, the **Dangerous Performances Act, 1897**; the **Infant Life Protection Act, 1897**; the **Vaccination Act, 1898**; the **Inebriates Act, 1898**; the **Youthful Offenders Act, 1901**; the **Licensing Act, 1902**; the **Employment of Children Act, 1903**; the **Prevention of Cruelty to Children Act, 1904**; the **Licensing Act, 1904**; &c., &c., &c.

Electors! remember this is a record of the legislation, conferring benefits upon the working classes, passed **during the last ten years** only; it does not include any of the beneficent legislation passed by previous Unionist Administrations. Ask any Radical who sneers at the Unionist Governments of 1895-1905 if he can show you for the same number of years a record that can equal or even approach it.

Don't be deceived! Don't be misled! Trust the party of deeds, which has conferred upon you this splendid legislation, rather than the party of words, whose specious promises have on so many previous occasions remained unfulfilled.

Vote for the Unionist Candidate.

Published by the Conservative Publication Department, St. Stephen's Chambers, Westminster, S.W., in connection with the National Union and the Conservative Central Office.

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LIBERALS AND LABOUR.

SOCIAL REFORMS BURKED BY THE LIBERAL PARTY.

WASTING TIME IN PARLIAMENT—Letter from Mr. J. KEIR HARDIE, M.P.

Working men of the country are constantly being told by Liberal partisans that the Conservatives and Unionists waste time in Parliament and neglect opportunities of effecting social reforms. But Mr. J. Keir Hardie, the Labour M.P. for Merthyr Tydvil, knows the truth, and in a letter to *The Times* of March 23, 1905, very plainly and straightforwardly expresses it. This is what he says:—

"May I crave the courtesy of your columns to refer to a definite matter of urgent public importance, to wit, the use to which Liberal M.P.'s are putting those private members' evenings which the chances of ballot have thus far thrown in their way? I refer to the re-affirmation, in varying forms, of their determination to uphold their free trade principles . . . they have declared in their amendment to the Address that for nearly two years the question has been "fully discussed," why, then, go on discussing it to the exclusion of other and more urgent topics upon which their opinions and intentions have not been made known? . . .

My object in writing this

is to point out to Liberals in the country that

the (Liberal) party in the House is deliberately burking discussions

on such topics of living interest as the provision of meals for starving school children, temperance reform, the taxation of unearned incomes, the unemployed, payment of members, adult suffrage, land nationalization, the better housing of the people, old age pensions, and the many other subjects upon which they are expected to legislate when next they are in office. The number of evenings allocated to private members is limited to two per week before Easter, and one per week from Easter to Whit week. Should it happen that none of the matters mentioned above are discussed this Session upon the only opportunities upon which there are likely to be openings—private members' evenings—we shall have the Liberal Opposition to thank for it. If

they go on monopolizing private members' time

in order to provide sport for the young bloods in the House,

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Birmingham Gazette.

We can heartily recommend it, for it contains a vast array of facts and figures **of the utmost use** to anyone who would understand the politics of the present day.

Midland Evening News.

We should say that all Unionists who desire to be able to give a reason for the faith that is in them, will make a point of at once adding the book to their libraries.

Belfast News Letter.

The amount of facts, quotations, and general political information gathered into this book is amazing.

Perthshire Constitutional and Journal.

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